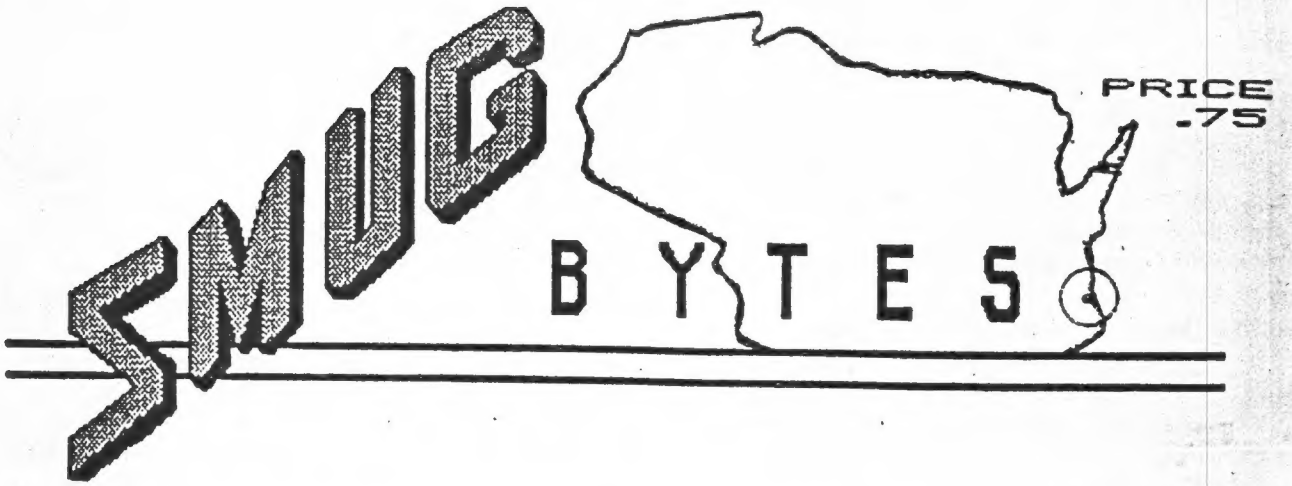

SMUG BYTES
Volume 7, Number 1
January 1990

Subscriptions = $10.00 per year or free with swap. Send to:

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P.O. Box 101, Butler WI 53007

THIS MONTH:

- *IBM Emulation*
- *A Few Not So New Programs*
- *"SQ" Notes by Rudy*
- *Presidents Message*
- *And Other Great Things*

If any articles are copied please credit SMUG BYTES

NEXT MEETING DATE: 2/07/90

Send all contributions by the 3rd Wednesday of the month to:

Bill Heberlein
Editor
SMUG BYTES
5052 N. 91st Street
Milwaukee WI 53225

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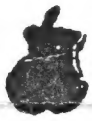
A LITTLE MORE ON THE MS DOS EMULATOR FOR THE QL COMPUTER

by Bill Heberlein

Well I have been using the MS DOS emulator on the QL and have found out a few items I would like to pass on. I had purchased the new ROM from Tom Bent at the computer fest in D.C. and although it works well it does not work with the emulator. When installed you can not get back to the adjustment screen (the one were you must press the control, shift, caps lock and alt to get to). With out this screen you will not be able to run a lot of programs. When I used my other QL computer, the one with the old ROM, I was able to bring up word perfect with colors. The problem with word perfect was the sound. You must return to the Solution menu and turn off the error stops.

Once this is done I could load word perfect with no problems. The same applies to other programs for IBM emulation. You must be able to get to that screen. There is one nice thing with word perfect and that is the Thesaurus is also included with the program. But I do not have a hard drive so I must "join" my two disk drives to have both spell checker and Thesaurus available. No big deal but it means only 1 drive available to use. Also you can run a lot of other programs that are not available for the Sinclair programmer. But I feel the programs we do have available are much better then the high priced spread. I like the emulator because it gives me access to the IBM world but Sinclair is still the best.

2nd BYTES



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with using modems. Although there are many advantages to such a system, we would like to look at that system as an adjunct to publication.

SNUG would like to present to all new information. That requires your assistance. Mathematically, the odds of one or two induviduals providing interesting information tends to break down over time. The "guru" of modeming may get burned out and long for the release from deadline and pressure.

This is a transitional year. Many of our once-prominent software writers, publishers, and hardware hackers have felt the all-too-familiar problem: "All effort; no return." The return can be financial, acknowledgement of effort, or for that matter, just plain old communication. For one reason or another, they have dropped out as interested parties.

The following thoughts are as disturbing to me, as they (hopefully) are thought-provoking to you. I have always considered the average Sinclairist to be someone that wants to get the best value for his/her dollar. The individual has seen the simple elegance and power of their systems, and are maverick and defiant enough to say - with pride - that they can do what the big boys can do; maybe not as fast, but enough to be impressed with the results. I can say, without reserve, that the Sinclair community impresses me with their drive to squeeze that last ounce of power from what was thought to be a "toy" or "doorstop." However, in the past there has been a sense of complacency, or "Let someone else do it. I only use programs, I dont know how to program."

The leaders, all of who should be congratulated for preseverance, managed to overcome these attitudes during the early years, and still provide a product. I sence the urgency in our efforts. It is in the realm of possibility that there will only be a handful (2 to 300) of North American Sinclairists in the next few years.

Why can orphans of the storm survive and flourish, yet allow ourselves to diminish the fine efforts of those that chose to have the "Power within our Grasp?" I am not a doom sayer, but let's wake up the sleeping giant, cause reaction, and see some action.

There are those with harsh words for our organization. At least one has started his own BBS. I applaud his efforts; at least he is returning something to the community. We welcome competition.

What does that require of you, the user? As the robot from Short Circuit is fond of saying: "Ah ... INPUT!" We need an organized effort from you the reader. We need reliable volunteers who are willing to accept an assignment and its responsibilities. We must build an effective working organization. We desperately need people to help with the charter (in order to get tax-exempt status), to be in an election committee, and to help organize our software library, literature library and database of members. We need your help as contacts or typists, to transfer material to electronic format for preservation. We need representatives to contact former software and hardware houses to release materials into public domain.

The goals are large. If we can get many of you to assist, the individual effort will be small. So please spare an hour or two, and help preserve the Sinclair group.

Just to let you know, the mention that we got in Michael O'Brien's Computer Shopper article has garnered as much attention as anything else that SNUG has ever been involved in. We averaged three letters or calls a day for the intire month. So the backlog of replies is very high. With this open letter, I hope to inform you of the reasons for delay.

If any of you feel that we have not lived up to your expectations, I have directed our treasurer, John

"SO" NOTES

BY R.A.HILSMANN

If you are a subscriber to the COMPUTER SHOPPER you probably are familiar with the "More Timex Sinclair" articles written by Michael O'Brien. If you are not, you are missing out on some very fine reading about your computer.

In the December issue, on page 745, I read something that should probably be read by every Timex Sinclair user. I normally do not copy anyones writing, but in this case I feel an exception is in order since it serves the whole of the Timex Sinclair community.

I am talking about a reprint of a letter, apparently send by Mel Nathanson, President of the Sinclair North American Users Group (SNUG), to some, or all persons in key positions within the Timex Sinclair community. I did not receive such a letter, nor am I aware that our club (SMUG) has received such a letter. I'm not sure if this letter has only be send to Michael O'Brian for his column, or was widely destributed to all.

I feel what is said in this letter, needs to be said, and not only in conjunction with SNUG. It really fits all areas where effort is put forth by an individual, or a group of individuals, unfortunately.

Here the reprint:

Dear Friends:

During the past few months, I have heard some very detrimential words concerning SNUG and its leaders. I would like to address that issue now. This is intended as an explanation of the facts, not as an excuse.

When the discussion of the formation of a multinational organization began, one of the most prominent things to be mentioned was that we would facilitate the exchange of information. We were not going to be close-minded about our efforts. We wanted to actively accept input from anyone interested enough to contact us.

Of the above ideas, some were succesful, and others were not. As the lawyers once put it: Not only must justice be done, but it must be SEEN to be done. I believe that a lot of the problem is not in our efforts. Rather, it is in the ability to communicate those efforts to you. I hope that, by now, there isn't anyone who will doubt that the efforts put forth so far are sincere. We are geared toward the maintenance and betterment of the Sinclair community through information.

We made some tentative efforts by dealing with an established publication, who offered us the entire publication, "lock, stock, and barrel." It was a major decision that prompted a cross-country phone conference. At first, we thought we could pull it off. However, the responsibility of neophyte publishers to provide a quality 50-plus page magazine with established standards was the major reason for second thoughts. Additionally, other complications brought those negotiations to a resounding halt.

There were also personal problems. Volunteers who would accept the responsibility of putting together a quality publication were few and far between. Certain individuals took advantage of the new personal business relationships, and profited monetarily from them. They also saddled certain leadership with unnecessary bills. Even so, none of your membership money has been used. Start-up money came from out-of-pocket expenses.

The idea of publication was to be our communication line to you. There are those among our critics who say we need to provide that information on an electronic BBS. We have determined that not all Sinclairists have access to, or want to get involved

Cushran, to refund your membership fees. We hope instead that we will continue to earn your faith in accomplishing the goals we have outlined. With your help, we can move foreward and grow.

Sincerely
Mel Nathanson
President, SNUG

****

Well there you have it, I hope this will make you think about the future of the whole Sinclair Community. Are you interested to keep it going, or do you look at it as wasted time, waiting for the inevitable, perhaps eying already an IBM compatible. I will not comment at this time. I like to hear what you have to say at the next meeting!

The only thing I like to say at this time is: "Well said Mel, you hit the nail right on the head in many spots." And this is, like I said before, not only true for the SNUG situation, it covers the situation found in most clubs, and I mean, not just computer clubs. There are but a few members which usually have to cary the whole load, repeatedly, again and again.

But let me get off the soap box now, and say thanks to all who have carried the load in the past, in our club, and elsewhere. Do not throw the towel, do not give up, it may not look like anyone appreciates what your doing, you may even receive critizism, but in reality most will recognize what your doing, and some may even envy you.

The day when we started this club, I remember saying: If you take the job of leadership, do not expect thanks, chances are there wont be any, most likely, there will be times when you wonder why you're doing it. Do it for your own satisfaction, then you wont feel cheated at the end.

Til next month .... Rudy

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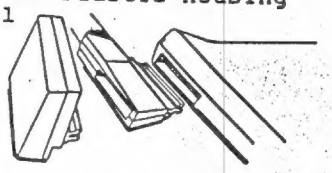

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Some Not So New Programs

I just got my tax program from EMSoft. It's called TAX-1-QL-89 and I hope it will help me with my taxes. I will report on it next month. I also got some programs from Curry for the Spectrum. Curry was selling out the supply of Spectrum programs. At one buck each we bought one of each type that were still available. I know a lot of our members are into games for both the Spectrum and QL and I am asking for their input as to good games for different age groups. I want information on all Sinclair games. I have some for all machines but I am not a true game master. I would also like to get some input from you radio amateur Sinclairites out there. So how about it! Lets hear from you I sure can use some other input from other minds.

Some Expo News

I just talked to Audrey Curnett from the CATS group in D.C. and she will get us a list of attendees from the D. C. Capitolfest of 89. I hope to get a mailing out to everyone we can in February. We can't afford two full mailings so after the February one I will add 1 extra to each newsletter for anyone that needs one. If you know of anyone that would be interested in attending the fest please take a flyer to them. The Milwaukee Expo is shaping up but we still can use a lot of help.

One thing that looks good is the T-shirts will be computer generated. Gordon has it all set up all we have to find is someone who will sell us shirts on consignment. Also can use some help in putting the mailing list together. With the list from CATS I hope to be able to contact most of the Sinclairites in the US. See you in M.

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News from Sector Software and England

A while back I wrote to Sector Software, they are the producers of Spellbound, and I just got a reply. I wanted to know if the dictionary could be printed out. There response was no. It seems there is no way to print out the words in the dictionary. To bad. It would be a good way to verify what words you want to keep and what to delete. It seems that to print out the complete dictionary it would take over 457 pages to list. They have moved to a new address and here it is: Sector Software, Unit 13, Centurion Way Ind Est, Farington, Leyland, Lancashire, PR5 2GU. If you want to contact them please do. They have two new products: A new ROM called MINERVA for the QL. It has a faster TRAP entry, scheduler, floating point arith., string manipulation and concatenation, RAM test for Trump Card owners, program search and corrected graphics. This ROM also fixes some outstanding bugs. I don't know if it is for the US ROM or not but I will find out. The price is 30 pounds English but with enough interest maybe we can get the price down.

The second letter I got was from the S.U.B. QL club in England. They sent us a new magazine in response to the issues of SMUG Bytes we send them. I will have it at the next meeting but I will go through a little of the contents right now. There is a nice little article on SpeedScreen. It explains what SpeedScreen does and how it does it. What programs are compatable with it and what ones are not. There's also a nice article on TurboQuill Plus. They talk on the advantages and disadvantages of using TurboQuill. They have the speeds of original and Turbo Quill in a comparison table. They talk about the customising required to use Spellbound and other programs enhancing Quill. They also cover Flashback, a Data Base manager, and QL Terminal a communications package for the QL. They also cover hardware such as the Trump Card and the TanData QCOM system for the QL. The magazine is worth the time it takes to read. But one thing be sure to have your glasses as the type is rather small.

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Please note anyone with an 89 next to their phone number still oues 1990 dues. The other number is the month.

The following program is for Archive and will set up a database. Enter it in Archive, save it as personal and to use it type RUN "PERSONAL".

```
100 dev$1="mdv2_"
110 OPEN#3,con
120 PAPER#3,2: INK#3,7: BORDER#3,1,7: CLS#3
130 REPeat readname: INPUT#3;"Filename [_LIS] ";file$: IF file$>"": EXIT readname
150 OPEN_IN#4,file$&"_LIS"
160 OPEN_NEW#5,dev$&"doletter_PRG"
170 PRINT#5;"proc doletter"
180 REPeat process
190 IF EOF(#4): EXIT process
200 INPUT#4;txt$
210 txt$=txt$(1 to len (txt$)-1)
220 pos="@" INSTR txt$
230 IF pos THEN
240 PRINT#5;'if ';txt$(pos+1 TO pos+('$' INSTR txt$(pos+1 TO LEN(txt$))));'>""'
250 PRINT#5;'doline;';'"';txt$(1 to pos-1);'"+';
260 PRINT#5;txt$(pos+1 TO LEN(txt$))
270 PRINT#5;'endif'
280 ELSE
290 PRINT#5;'doline;"';txt$;'"'
300 ENDIF
310 END REPeat process
320 PRINT#5;'endproc'
330 CLOSE#3: CLOSE#4: CLOSE#5
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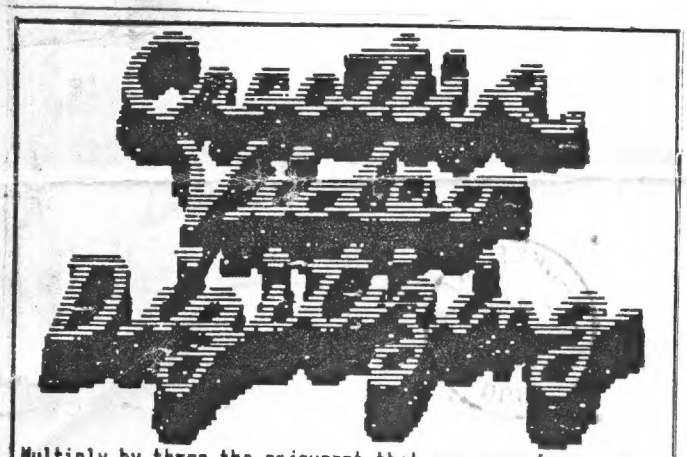
PRESIDENTS MESSAGE

Well dues are due for many of you who were not at the annual meeting Jan. 3. Please pay your dues as Bill doesn't want to stop sending the newsletter and the club needs your dues to pay it's bills. Also if you know any computer nut bring them along to the meeting. We accept show and tell from anyone. A little more on the new ROM from Bent. Certain programs will not work with it. For example Locksmith & Formatter. The following list of swaps comming up: Sat., Feb., 24. 1990: 1330 Midway Rd. Menasha WI $2 at door.; Sun April 8, 1990, Expo Center. Madison WI, $4 at door + parking.; Sat., May 5, 1990, Circle B Rec Center, Cedarburg WI $3 at door.

G I G O
Or In Otherwords The Meeting

Very interesting meeting. Two things happend. First the members agreed to postpone the elections till after the Expo in June. The idea is to allow the current slate of officers & directors to continue working to put on the Expo without break. The second is Neal's announcement he will not run for president again. This means someone out there must take over. The election will be held at a meeting after the Expo. You will be notified as to time and place. We decided to go with the computer generated T-Shirts. Now we have to find an outlet for getting them on consignment. If you know of any places or have any ideas please attend the next meeting. In another paragraph is the phone list. Also when your membership expires. If you are not paid up see Pancho right away.



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Editor and contact person is:
Bill Heberlein (414) 527 2191.

SMUG maintains a gratis exchange of newsletters with approximately 30 Users Groups across the U.S. and Canada. Clubs not sending newsletters for more than 6 months are removed from our mailing list.

Newsletter subscription is available for only $10 per year to non members or free with a club membership. A club membership is $20 per year for a family membership.

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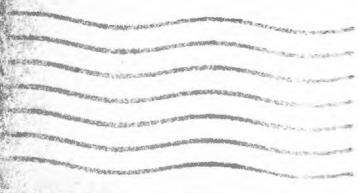

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7:30 Business Meeting
8:30 View of Expo Designs
8:45 Discussion on Acceptable Ones
10:30 Clean Up

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